

Winter 2013

WINTER DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE TIPS

The County is asking for your help in managing your community's drainage system this winter. Many problems occur during the winter when debris accumulates in creeks, streams, and ditches. This debris can be swept away by rainstorms and can block downstream drainage facilities causing storm water to overflow into the street and onto private properties that are below street level. Similar problems are encountered in private yards where creeks and ditches flow into pipes under lawns and other improved surfaces.

While we can't stop the rain, it is possible to control, to a degree, the accumulation of debris and sediment in drainage channels and to reduce the potential for flooding. Some of the debris results from the natural processes of decay and erosion. Other debris, such as lawn clippings and brush cuttings, is generated by human activity.

What can you do?

You can help prevent potential flooding by taking the following precautions:

- Throughout each fall, and especially before
 the first winter rain, check all drainage channels, driveway culverts and other drainage
 pipes, ditches, and swales on and around your
 property and remove any debris and sediment
 that could cause blockages.
- Each fall, check to see that all drainage pipes within or adjacent to your property have unobstructed entrances and exits. Clear any debris and silt to ensure free passage of storm runoff.

• If your property is located in an unincorporated area of the County and you are unsure of your responsibility regarding the maintenance of a particular drainage facility on or near your property, call the County Public Works Department at (925) 313-7000. If your property is located within the city limits, please call the city Public Works or Engineering Department.

The County has maintenance responsibility for: (1) drainage pipes within the public road right-of -way which carry water from one side of the street to the other, and; (2) drainage pipes within an easement offered to and accepted by the County for maintenance purposes. All other drainage facilities are the responsibility of the private property owner to maintain.

The County Ordinance Code includes provisions that require a property owner to obtain a permit before doing work that would affect the flow of storm waters or existing drainage patterns.

While debris cleanup is a maintenance activity that does not normally require any special permits, please be aware that if you plan to use mechanical equipment (tractor, backhoe, etc.) to do the clean up, or if you plan in any way to alter an existing drainage channel (alteration could be in the form of a slide repair, a fill, a redirection of a channel, etc.), you may need a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, in addition to a permit from the County. Again, if in doubt, do not hesitate to call (925) 313-7000.

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REFURBISHMENT

ACCREDITATION

Contra Costa County's Public Works
Department was recently awarded its
third prestigious American Public Works
Association (APWA) Re-Accreditation.

The APWA Accreditation/Re-Accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry. Accredited agencies meet or exceed standards of performance in areas such as road and bridge repair, maintenance, engineering and construction services, building and grounds maintenance, utility coordination and vehicle maintenance. Contra Costa County's Re-Accreditation indicates that they are maintaining their documentation and practices and meeting the new practices adopted by the APWA.

"Contra Costa's APWA Re-Accreditation is a program that has enhanced the effectiveness and competencies of our Public Works Department, and that has been accomplished over a lengthy period of time with three APWA Re-Accreditations since our initial Accreditation in July, 2001," said Public Works Director Julia Bueren. "With the APWA Re-Accreditation, the Public Works Department has updated and recommitted to concepts of continuous improvement and in-depth self-assessment of our agency's policies, procedures and practices" Bueren said. For more information, contact the Contra Costa County Public Works Accreditation Manager, Carrie Ricci at cricc@pw.cccounty.us.

CONTRA COSTA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

The Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez has experienced a shortage of visitor parking spaces for many years. The new Parking Lot 'E' project was constructed to provide 80 new parking stalls. Project features include Americans with Disabilities Act parking spaces, lighting, landscaping, stormwater collecting planter areas, concrete stairs that connect to adjacent existing parking lot levels, and a service road for maintenance vehicles. During construc-

tion, numerous underground utilities and conflicts were discovered and addressed. Construction started April 2012 and was completed in October 2012. The overall impact is an attractive new parking lot that complements the medical campus for visitors and staff. The designer is International Parking Design, Alameda. The contractor is Bay Cities Grading & Paving, Concord. The total project cost is approximately \$1.1 million. The project was

managed by the Capital Projects Management Division.



STREETLIGHTS

The Special Districts section of the Contra Costa County Public Works Department is responsible for streetlights in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. Lighting districts have been established throughout many areas of the County to provide lighting along public rights-of-way to improve the safety for Contra Costa County residents. To find out if your parcel is part of a lighting district, call (925) 313-2286, or check your property tax bill to see if a

lighting assessment is included under the assessment listings.

What if a streetlight is out? If you notice that a streetlight is out, please note the location and, if possible, the identifying number painted on the pole, and report the problem by calling (925) 313-2286. Staff will then verify the location and pole number, determine if the streetlight is the County's responsibility or that of PG&E, and arrange for repair of the light.

The Public Works Department sometimes receives comments regarding a streetlight shining through windows and keeping residents awake. If you encounter this problem, please contact (925) 313-2286. Public Works staff will adjust the light, tilting it so that it shines in a different direction. If this is not sufficient, a shield may be installed at the property owner's expense.

GRANT AWARDS

The Transportation Division of the Public Works Department received funding through several grant programs to fund safety improvements as well as improve accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders. The Department appreciates the diligent efforts of staff to prepare successful applications and also thanks the local communities and their elected officials for their letters of support and involvement in strengthening the competitiveness of our applications.

Since the Summer of 2011, a total of 11 County projects were selected for grant awards for a total of \$11,047,000. The project name, description, grant program and award amount are listed below:

Pacifica Avenue Sidewalk Project

Construct pedestrian improvements on Pacifica Avenue in Bay Point to improve accessibility to three schools including Rio Vista Elementary, Shore Acres Elementary, and Riverview Middle Schools. The project will also include conducting activities at the schools to promote walking and biking for a healthy lifestyle.

- Federal Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) - \$849,000 award
- Transportation Development Act (TDA) -\$100,000 award
- Construction is anticipated in 2014

Canal Road Sidewalk and Bike Lane Project

Construct sidewalks and bike lanes on Canal Road to improve safety and accessibility to Bel Air Elementary School and the Bay Point BART Station.

- State funded Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S) \$450,000 award
- Lifeline Transportation Program (LTP) \$1,000,000 award
- Construction is anticipated in 2015

Miranda Avenue Sidewalk Improvements – Construct sidewalk on Miranda Avenue at Stone Valley Middle School in Alamo.

- Transportation Development Act (TDA)
 Program \$88,000 award
- Construction is anticipated in 2014

Byron Highway at Camino Diablo Intersection Improvements

Install a traffic signal and construct turn lanes and standard road shoulders.

- Federal High Risk Rural Road (HRRR)
 Grant Program \$900,000 award
- Construction anticipated in 2016

Alhambra Valley Road Safety Improvement Project

Remove roadside obstructions and widen shoulders to improve safety at the curves at Ferndale Road and Rancho La Boca Road.

- Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant - \$600,000 award
- Construction anticipated in 2016

Alhambra Valley Road Safety Improvement Project – East of Bear Creek Road

Improve road alignment and provide standard road shoulders in unincorporated Martinez on Alhambra Valley Road east of Bear Creek Road.

- Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) - \$900,000 award
- Federal High Risk Rural Road (HRRR)
 Grant Program \$810,000 award
- Construction is anticipated in 2013

Marsh Creek Road Safety Improvement Project

Improve road alignment and construct shoulder improvements on Marsh Creek Road west of Deer Valley Road, south of Antioch.

- Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) - \$620,000 award
- Federal High Risk Rural Road (HRRR)
 Grant Program \$900,000 award
- Construction is anticipated in 2015

Camino Tassajara Shoulder Widening Project

Construct standard road shoulders on Camino Tassajara between Highland Road and Windemere Parkway in unincorporated San Ramon.

- Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) - \$900,000 award
- Expected to go to construction in 2014

San Pablo Dam Road Walkability Project

Reconstruct sidewalks, curb and gutter in downtown El Sobrante from Appian Way to Hillcrest Road to provide a clear path of travel compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project also includes landscaping to create a more pedestrian friendly town center.

Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Grant Program through local Measure J - \$1,400,000 award Construction anticipated in 2014

Pacheco Boulevard Sidewalk Gap Closure Phase II

Construct sidewalks on the north side of Pacheco Boulevard from Windover Way to Morello Avenue.

- Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Grant Program through local Measure J - \$850,000 award
- Construction anticipated in 2014

Stone Valley Road Bike Lane Gap Closure

Construct bike lanes on Stone Valley Road from High Eagle Road to Alta Sierra Place in Alamo.

- Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Grant Program through local Measure J - \$680,000 award
- Construction anticipated in 2014

We look forward to ongoing efforts with the community on these projects in the coming year to as well as future projects to turn project ideas into funded improvement projects that will improve safety and the quality of life for our residents. If you have an idea for a project in your area, please contact Mary Halle, Associate Civil Engineer, with the Advanced Planning Section of the Transportation Engineering Division at (925) 313-2327.

LOS ALTOS DRIVE SLIDE REPAIR

The Los Altos Drive Slide Repair project is located in the Kensington area. This project will install a soldier pile wall with wood lagging in order to stabilize the area immediately adjacent to the north side of the roadway that failed during the winter of 2010/11. The wall type was selected after a geotechnical evaluation of the site. This wall type was selected due to the small footprint of the wall

itself, so it could fit within existing road right-of-way.

The wall will consist of steel beams embedded into the ground with wood lagging extending between the steel beams to form the wall. The wall height will vary from a few feet to over 10 feet tall at the tallest location. The beams will extend up to 16 feet into bedrock.

The beams will be placed in drilled holes which will be filled with concrete to secure the beam in place. The wall will be backfilled with drainage materials and structural backfill and a metal beam guard rail will be installed between the edge of the roadway and the wall. This project was funded by local road funds and was completed in October 2012.

CRISIS RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

The New Crisis Residential Facility (CRF) is a new Health Services facility being constructed across the street from the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center in Martinez. The CRF will house a 24-hour residential treatment program as a viable alternative to hospitalization. The program will provide a transitional level of care when a patient leaves the hospital but needs further assistance while reentering the community. The facility will be 6,600 square feet, two stories, and has capacity 16 residents. The facility includes a living room, a dining room,

kitchen, a library, administrative and support spaces, and will have decks and terraces integrated into the nearby hills to provide a comfortable and nurturing setting.

Construction started in June 2012 and is expected to be completed by May of 2013. Unique features of the project include the installation of soil nails to strengthen the hillside and the wall textured and stained to blend the surrounding landscape. Foundations and building slab have been completed.

Framing will continue over the next several weeks. The general contractor is W.A. Thomas, Martinez. The project is being managed by the Capital Projects Management Division. The total project cost is estimated at just under 5 million dollars.



LIVORNA PARK MULTI-USE COURT REFURBISHMENT

Engineering Services, Special Districts section, working with a landscape architecture firm, STANTEC Architecture, Inc., and the Public Works Capital Projects Division, developed plans and construction documents to refurbish the Livorna Park multi-use court in Alamo. The existing multi-use court will retain its current use of basketball and, by striping

the court, will also offer other sports including pickle ball and small court tennis.

Court improvements include repairing the fence surrounding the court, installation of a new tennis net and tightening mechanism, installation of a new court surface, repairing drainage surrounding the court, adding striping for multiple sport uses, and providing new benches and a trash receptacle. This project was completed in January 2013.

The Alamo Municipal Advisory Committee was involved in the review of various striping options and recommended proceeding with this project.



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Visit our website: http://www.cccpublicworks.org
Do you have comments about this newsletter?

Contact Carrie Ricci at (925) 313-2235

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT